# A CONFERENCE

BETWEEN

# CHRIST

AND A

# DOUBTFUL CHRISTIAN.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

THE

## *Good Man's comfortable Companion;*

OR, A DAILY PREPARATION FOR HEAVEN:

*Wherein are Directions for paſſing our Days well and accceptable TO GOD.*

With Divine Meditations, Prayers, and Ejaculations, fitted for the ſeveral Times and Occaſions of offering them to GOD.

ALSO A COLLECTION OF

## EXCELLENT PRAYERS,

FOR MORNING AND EVENING, FOR EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK,

Adapted to the Uſe of ſuch Perſons whoſe urgent Buſineſs, or ordinary Days, will not permit them longer Time for Devotion.

*By ARCHBISHOP LAUD.*

THE FIFTH EDITION.

**London:**

PRINTED AND SOLD BY

T. SABINE and SON, 81, SHOE LANE, FLEET STREET.

# A

# CONFERENCE

BETWEEN

*CHRIST* and a *DOUBTFUL CHRISTIAN.*

*JESUS.*

COME unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.—Matt. xi, 28.

*CHRISTIAN.* O Lord, I am a poor and heavy laden ſinner, that would come unto thee, but cannot come.

J. It is true, O ſoul, no man can come unto me except the father which hath ſent me draw him. John vi, 44.

Ch. How then ſhall I come unto thee?

J. I and my father are one, and we give power to the faint, and to them that have no might we add ſtrength. John x, 30. Iſa. xi, 29.

Ch. O Lord, I am altogether without ſtrength, therefore draw me unto thee, and I will come unto thee.

J. I will draw thee unto me with the cords of a man, with the bands of love, and with loving kindneſs. Hoſea xi, 4.

Ch. But,

Ch. But, Lord, now I look upon myſelf, I ſee I am unworthy to come unto thee; yea, unworthy of the leaſt of thy mercies.

J. So ſaid my ſervant John the Baptiſt, Jacob, and others; yet do not judge thyſelf, as the Jews did, unworthy of eternal life. Mat. viii, 8. Acts xiii, 36.

Ch. If ſuch men as John the Baptiſt, and Jacob thought themſelves unworthy, how many thouſand times more unworthy am I, a wretched and wicked ſinner!

J. It is true, neither they nor thou could be worthy of yourſelves; but yet I am willing to account you worthy as the prodigal's father did his ſon. Luke xv, 21, 22.

Ch. But, Lord, if there was any thing that was good in me, it might a little encourage me to come unto thee, but I find nothing but evil in me.

J. Doſt thou know that without me thou canſt not do any thing; and that a man can conceive nothing except it be given him from Heaven? Why doſt thou ſtay away from me, who muſt work all thy works in thee? And becauſe thou ſeeſt nothing but evil in thee, thou ſhouldſt the rather come unto me, who am the fountain wherein thy unclean ſoul muſt be waſhed; and unleſs I waſh thee thou canſt not be clean, nor have any part in me. John xv, 5, iii, 27. Iſa. xxvii, 12, ii, 13. Zech. xiii, 1. Ezek. xxvii, 25, i, 9. John xiii, 8.

Ch. True, O God, thou art the fountain and well-ſpring of life, and it is thy blood, and nothing elſe, that can waſh away my ſins; but

how can I come near thee who am ſo wicked, that, for aught I know, have counted thy blood an unholy thing. Heb. x, 29.

J. Thou poor, dear, and doubting ſoul, what if thou hadſt a hand in crucifying me, as the Jews had, yet cannot I forgive thee as I did many of them? But thou haſt not counted my blood an unholy thing; for thou deſireſt to have thy ſins waſhed away by it.

Ch. What the Jews did they did ignorantly, but I have ſinned againſt knowledge, which makes my ſins worſe than theirs.

J. If thou haſt ſinned againſt knowledge, yet thou haſt not ſinned ſo but thou mayeſt be forgiven; for my dear diſciple Peter ſinned againſt knowledge, when he denied with an oath that he knew me. Mat. xxvi, 22.

Ch. Oh! but my ſins are worſe than his; for his ſin was but one ſin, and that a ſudden and ſhort ſin; but I have ſinned many ſins, and continued long in them.

J. So did my beloved ſervant David, who was a man according to my own heart, commit ſeveral ſins againſt me together, as murder, whoredom, &c. and continued long too in his ſins.

Ch. Oh! but, Lord, thoſe ſervants of thine, though they ſinned againſt thee, yet they expreſſed a great ſenſe of their ſins, and ſorrow for them; but I can neither be ſenſible of nor ſorrowful for mine.

J. O, ſweet ſoul, thou miſtakeſt and forgetteſt thyſelf; for thou doſt often confeſs thy ſins before me with ſenſe of ſhame and ſorrow; and

I hear

I hear thee daily bemoaning and complaining, and saying, I have sinned against the Lord, woe is me, for I am undone. Job viii, 20. Ps. li, 4. Lam. v, 16.

Ch. Oh! good Lord, it is not without cause that I cry, Woe is me, I am undone; for I think there is no soul in such a dangerous and desperate condition as mine.

J. Why dost thou think and say so?

Ch. Because I have sinned that unpardonable sin against the spirit.

J. O thou poor and precious soul, thou dost but think so; but tell me how canst thou sin that sin against my spirit, and yet pray for more of my spirit, and so much prize my spirit as thou dost?

Ch. O Lord, I have often grieved and quenched thy spirit; and is not this to commit that unpardonable sin?

J. My own dear and loving children may, and do sometimes grieve my spirits by sinning, and quench the gracious motions of it, and yet do not sin that unpardonable sin. Ephes. iv. 30. 1 Thess. v, 19. Isa. lxii, 10.

Ch. Oh! but I think no less but I have committed that sin; for I have had hard, cruel, and desperate thoughts in my heart against thy holy spirit.

J. Though, my child, thou hast had such thoughts in thy heart, yet thou hast not spoken evil of my spirit, as the Jews did, which the sin of blasphemy, and that unpardonable sin. Mat. xii, 24, 28, 31. Mark ii, 22 to 30.

Ch.

Ch. Lord, I am not ſure but that I have ſpoken evil words of thy ſpirit; for I know I have many times uttered vile, bitter, and curſed words.

J. Notwithſtanding thou didſt, through the violence of thy temptations, and in the bitterneſs of thy ſoul, ſpeak ſuch words as my ſervants Job, David, Jeremiah, Jonah, and Peter did, yet thou haſt not done ſpitefully, nor ſinned maliciouſly and wilfully againſt my ſpirit of grace, as reprobates do. Heb. x, 29. John iii, 10, x, 11, and xxi, 13, 16. Pſalm xxxi, 22, and cxvi, 18.

Ch. Oh! I have been, and am ſtill, very wilful, and have often ſinned wilfully; and thou ſayeſt in thy word, that if any ſin wilfully, after they receive the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more ſacrifice for ſins. Heb. x, 6.

J. Thou dear ſoul, have I not often heard thee in prayer complaining of and bewailing thy ſins, and begging earneſtly for power againſt them? therefore it is rather againſt thy will than wilfully that thou doſt ſin.

Ch. Oh! but I find ſin and power in my ſoul, which, if I were a ſaint, would not be ſo.

J. My ſervant Paul found ſin ſo ſtrong in him, that he confeſſed he was carnal, and ſold under ſin, and that he found a law in his members warring againſt the law of his mind, and bringing him into captivity to the law of ſin. Rom. xiv, 23. (Sin was in power in Paul, when it could carry him captive.)

Ch. Oh! but neither Paul, nor any other ſaint, hath ſinned preſumptuouſly as I have done.

J. My ſervant David prayed that he might be kept from preſumptuous ſins, for he was ſubject thereto, and ſo are the beſt of my ſaints. Pſalm

xix, 13. (It is probable that David ſinned preſumptuouſly in killing Uriah.)

Ch. But, Lord, I have rebelled againſt thee.

J. So did my ſervants of old; but I have received gifts for the rebellious, and to me belong mercies and forgiveneſs, though thou haſt rebelled againſt me. Dan. ix, 9. Iſa. i, 2, and lxiii, 20. Pſ. lxviii, 18.

Ch. Oh! but my rebellion is the worſt rebellion of all; for I have rebelled againſt the light. I have profeſſed thee, and yet I have belied thee, and made a hypocritical profeſſion. I ſeemed, like Judas, to be thy friend, whilſt in my heart I did not love thee.

J. The houſe of Iſrael and the houſe of Judah dealt treacherouſly againſt me, the Lord and belied me; and Ephraim, my dear ſon, compaſſed me about with lies, yet I was gracious to them. Jer. v. 12, 21, xxiii, 6 and 31.

Ch. But, Lord, Ephraim was never ſo wicked and baſe, and guilty of ſuch lukewarmneſs, hypocriſy, and backſliding, as I am guilty of.

J. Yea, Ephraim was a cake not turned, and fed upon wind, and provoked me to anger moſt bitterly, yet my bowels ſtill worked towards him that I could not deſtroy him. Hoſea viii, 8, and xii. 1, 14, with 11 and 8.

Ch. But I encreaſed in ſin, and the more mercies I received the more my heart was exalted.

J. Even ſo did Ephraim ſin more and more; according as he was filled, ſo his heart was exalted, Hoſea xiii, 2, 6.

Ch. Lord,

Ch. Lord, what didſt thou do to Ephraim?

J. I drew him with the cords of a man, and with the bands of love; and I was the dew unto them. Hoſea xi, 4, xiv, 5.

Ch. Oh! but I have forſaken thee, Lord, and backſlide from thee.

J. So did Iſrael and Judah. Jer. ii, 13.

Ch. But, Lord, I find that my heart is bent to continued backſliding; yea, my backſlidings are encreaſed.

J. So were they. I that healed their backſlidings will heal thine alſo. Hoſea xiv, 4. Jer. x, 6.

Ch. I have fallen into groſs ſins that have diſhonoured thee, and cauſed thine enemies to blaſpheme.

J. So did my ſervant David, 2 Sam. xii, 14, and other my ſaints.

Ch. But then he did mourn and weep greatly for his ſins, but I cannot do ſo; for I find my heart as hard as an adamant.

J. So my people Iſrael's hearts formerly were as hard as a rock, adamant, and flint. Jer. v. 3.

Ch. Oh! but I have been long, yea ever, troubled with this hardneſs of heart.

J. What though yet I am exalted to give repentance unto thee. Acts v, 31.

Ch. Oh! but I do not find that I am ſenſible enough of my ſins; for if I were I ſhould mourn, and be aſhamed for all the wickedneſs which I have committed againſt thee.

J. When thou doſt ſee me, whom thou haſt pierced, and when thou ſeeſt that I am pacified towards thee, then thou ſhalt mourn, loath thy

ſelf,

ſelf, and be aſhamed for all thy ſins and abominations which thou haſt committed againſt me. Rev. i, 7.

Ch. But, Lord, I am a very great ſinner, and would fain ſee the number and nature of my ſins, that I might truly repent me of them, and be humbled for them.

J. If thou ſee all thy ſins, with their nature, number, and aggravations, thou canſt never look upon them but with deſpair, as Cain and Judas. And it is not ſo much the ſight of my love grace, goodneſs, and glory, that will lead thee to repentance, and humble thee for thy ſins. Luke vii, 27, 42. Zech. xii, 10. Rom. ii, 4.

Ch. O Lord, I know I am as wicked a ſinner and as ungodly a wretch as ever lived; but though I know this, yet methinks I am not broken enough with the ſenſe thereof; I cannot ſhed tears for my ſins. Oh, no! I go many times to prayers and to hear ſermons, and there is no more working or relenting upon my ſoul than if I were a ſtone.

J. O, my dear ſoul, do not believe thyſelf, for I have heard many a ſorrowful ſigh coming from thy heart; and I will yet pour out more of the ſpirit of mourning upon thee. But what if thou didſt not find theſe things in thyſelf, yet I have offered up ſtrong cries and tears unto my Father for thee. Ezk. ix. Pſalm xxiv, 17.

Ch. O Lord, that I had but faith to believe that for myſelf!

J. Have faith in me, and be not faithleſs but believing. Mark x, 13. John xx, 27.

Ch. Lord, I find ſo much atheiſm and unbe-

 lief

lief in my heart, that I oftentimss queſtion myſelf concerning God, and concerning the Scriptures of the word of God.

J. Theſe are temptations and ſuggeſtions of the devil; and my own diſciples were and are troubled with them. Luke xxiv, 25.

Ch. O Lord, I am troubled with a thouſand temptations.

J. Yet fear not, my loving and dear child, though thou haſt divers temptations, for it is that which my beſt ſaints have had, and I will not ſuffer thee to be tempted above what thou art able, but I will ſuccour thee in thy temptations, and will make a way that thou ſhalt eſcape, and be delivered out of temptation. James i. 2 Cor. x. 13. Heb. ii, 18. Pet. ii, 9.

Ch. I think no ſaint hath ſuch temptations as mine; for ſometimes I am tempted to kill myſelf, and ſometimes to kill others, inſomuch that I cannot look upon any weapon, waters, or the like, but I am ready to make away with myſelf.

J. Satan tempted me to caſt myſelf off the pinnacle of the temple, and he alſo tempted many of my dear children to deſtroy themſelves, but do not thou hearken to the accuſer, for he doth accuſe thee to me, and me to thee; but rather ſay unto him, Satan, it is written, My Lord Jeſus hath overcome thee; and I hope through his blood, and through his might and ſpirit, to overcome thee likewiſe. Say alſo, My God hath commanded me not to kill another, nor to hurt, nor do violence to myſelf; therefore get thee behind me, thou liar, murderer, and enemy, and

I will

will endeavour to ſerve him, though he ſhould afterwards damn me. Mat. iv, 5. Rev. xii. 10. John xii, 13. Exod. xx, 13.

Ch. Oh, but this doth much trouble me, that I do not find any love in my heart to thee.

J. What, though thou doſt not, yet I will circumciſe thy heart, and thou ſhalt love me, and when thou apprehendeſt my love to thee, thou wilt love me again. Deut. xxx, 16.

Ch. I have ſinned, Lord, againſt thy mercies, and abuſed thy love; yea, loved thy ſins more than thee, therefore I cannot think that ever thou wilt look upon me with any love or delight.

J. So did my ſervant David, and my people Iſrael; yet, as I loved them, ſo I will love thee freely, and betroth thee to me in loving kindneſs and mercy. 2 Sam. xii, 8, 9. Hoſ. ii, 5.

Ch. But, Lord, I have not only ſinned againſt thy mercies, but againſt thy correction and chaſtiſements alſo.

J. So did my people Iſrael formerly; for when I ſmote them, they went on forwardly in the way of their evil hearts, but I led them and reſtored comfort to them. Iſaiah lvii, 17, 18.

Ch. Ah! but my condition is worſe than all that; for I have been long under the means of grace, and yet I am altogether fruitleſs, and like the barren fig-tree.

J. Thou troubled ſoul, in me is thy fruit found; and I will purge thee, and thou ſhalt bring forth fruit abundantly, for they that are planted in my houſe ſhall flouriſh and be fat, and like a green olive tree. John xv, 4. Pſal. xcii, 12, 13, 14.

Ch. Ah! Lord, it is true, if I were a branch

in thee, and a true member of thy houſe, then I could believe thoſe promiſes of thine; alas, I am neither, but ſeparated from thee and thy people.

J. Do not ſay that thou art none of mine, for I have bought thee with my blood; and do not ſpeak that thou art ſeparated from my people, for I will give thee in my houſe and within my walls, a place and a name of ſons and daughters. Iſa. lvi, 3, 5.

Ch. Sure, if I were not an out-caſt, and a reprobate, I ſhould not be thus, as I am, in a wilderneſs condition.

J. Iſrael was counted an out-caſt, and ſhe cried out, yet I was then a God to her, and ſhe a people to me. Jer. xxx, 16, 17, 18.

Ch. Oh! if I were but one of thine, I ſhould then count myſelf the happieſt in all the world.

J. Fear not, my ſpouſe, for I am thy huſband and thy father.

Ch. If I was one of thy children thou wouldſt not hide thyſelf from me as thou doſt.

J. I have hid myſelf and my face from ſome of my prophets and people of old, and yet it was in love to them, and ſo it is to thee. Pſalm lxxxviii, 14. Iſaiah viii, 17.

Ch. But thou haſt hid thyſelf from me, and thou ſeemeſt alſo to be angry with me. Jeremiah xxx, 9.

J. Fury is not with me towards thee; and tho' I be angry, yet my anger is but for a moment. Iſaiah xxvii, 4, and liv, 8.

Ch. Yet, Lord, thou haſt been angry with me for a long time, for thou haſt forgotten me.

J. Zion

J. Zion did say so, The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me; yet I had not forgot her, for she was graven upon the palms of my hands. Isaiah xlix, 14. Jer. li, 5.

Ch. But, Lord, if thou hadst not forgotten me, thou wouldst never have left me in such a wilderness, and barron condition as I am in.

J. I have allured thee into the wilderness that I might speak comfortably unto thee. Hosea ii, 14.

Ch. I have been many years in trouble and terrors, and wanting peace in my soul, which could not possibly have been if I had truly believed in thee.

J. But now I will speak peace unto thee, and I will lead thee into the way of peace. Psalm lxxv, 8. Luke i, 79.

Ch. Lord, wilt thou speak peace unto me, and guide me into the way of peace: the preacher's lips that preach peace.

J. I will create the fruit of thy lips, peace; peace and my spirit shall be in thee, and his fruit shall be peace to his soul. Isaiah lvi, 19.

Ch. But, Lord, thy word saith, There is no peace to the wicked.

J. No, not to a man that will persist in his wicked way, and doth nor will not believe in me; but thou art one of those the chastisement of whose peace I bore, and one of the children of peace. Isaiah liii, 5, and liv, 30.

Ch. But, Lord, how can I have peace, seeing a man cannot have peace unless he believes?

J. Thou shalt have faith and peace, and I will give peace through believing. 2 Thes. iii, 6, 16.

Ch. But

Ch. But, Lord, then I muſt know that I am none of thine.

J. Thou ſhalt know that I am the Lord thy God, and that thou art one of my people. Ezek. xxxvi, 30.

Ch. Oh! how ſhall I know that?

J. My ſpirit ſhall bear witneſs with thy ſpirit, that thou art my child. Rom. viii, 16.

Ch. But how ſhall I know that it is thy ſpirit that beareth this witneſs, and that it is not the ſpirit of deluſion?

J. Thou mayeſt know that by its power in working in thy heart, which no other ſpirit can work alike; as alſo by thy earneſt endeavours and fruits thereof. 2 Cor. v, 5. Gal. xxii, 23.

Ch. Lord, what elſe ſhall I believe, beſides being one of thine?

J. Doſt thou believe in me?

Ch. Yes, Lord, I do believe that thou art Jeſus the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. Acts viii. 37. John vi, 69.

J. But doſt thou believe that I am thy Saviour?

Ch. Lord, I do believe that there is no other way to be ſaved but only by thee. Acts iv, 12.

J. But doſt thou believe that thou ſhalt be ſaved by me?

Ch. Lord, I do believe, help thou my unbelief. Mat. ix, 24.

J. To thee it is given to believe. Phil. i, 29.

Ch. Now, Lord, I do believe.

J. What doſt thou believe?

Ch. I believe that thou loveſt me, and didſt give thyſelf for me, and that thou art my Lord and

and my God, and that I am juſtified, and ſhall be ſaved by grace. Gal. ii, 20. John xx, 8. Acts xv. 18.

J. How cameſt thou to believe this?

Ch. Lord, it is thy gift and work that I do believe it. Epheſ. ii, 8. Heb. xii, 2.

J. Well, now thou doſt believe, what wilt thou do?

Ch. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Acts ix, 6.

J. If thou loveſt me, keep my commandments. John xiv, 23.

Ch. What are thoſe words of thine?

J. Search the Scriptures, for they are able to make thee perfect and wiſe unto ſalvation, and to furniſh thee for every good work. John v, 39. Tim. iii, 16, 17.

Ch. But, Lord, how ſhall I underſtand thy word?

J. I will make known my word unto thee. Prov. ix, 23.

Ch. But, Lord, is there no danger of my departing and falling away from thee now I do believe?

J. Yes; my ſervant Paul, the chief of my apoſtles, was obliged to walk circumſpectly, leſt, after having preached to others, he himſelf ſhould become a caſt-away.

Ch. Lord, I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart. Phil. i, 19.

J. I have redeemed thee, that thou ſhouldſt ſerve me without fear, in holineſs and righteouſneſs, all the days of thy life. Luke i, 69.

Ch. Come

Ch. Come, ye children, and I will declare what the Lord has done for my ſoul. My ſoul ſhall make her boaſt of the Lord: the humble ſhall hear this and be glad—O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! Pſalm xxxiv, 2, 5, 11.

---

## The Good Man's comfortable Companion.

### *Directions how to paſs our Days well and acceptable to GOD.*

SAINT Baſil exhorts us to this purpoſe, That before we do any thing elſe we be careful to conſecrate the firſt fruits of the day, and the very beginning of our thoughts unto the ſervice of God. Accordingly, let the firſt thing that you do, and the firſt words that you ſpeak every day, tend to this great and important end, the worſhip and acknowledgment of Almighty God; for, as good men have obſerved, upon our firſt thoughts do commonly depend the thoughts and actions of the whole day; therefore, when you firſt awake, you muſt admire and thankfully acknowledge his great goodneſs in the laſt night's ſleep, who might, and deſervedly too, have ſuffered death to ſeize on you whilſt ſleeping, and hurried you hence, to render an account of what you have done in the fleſh; the reſult of which will be

be to think how, on the ſuppoſal of this dreadful ſurpriſe, you are prepared; and to conclude and pray; happy is that ſervant whom the Lord when he cometh, ſhall find ſo doing.

*To this Meditation prefix this holy Ejaculation.*

LIGHTEN mine eyes, O God, that I ſleep not in death. Amen.

*And ſubjoin this humble Reſignation of yourſelf.*

INTO thy hands, O Lord, I this day commend my ſoul and body, beſeeching thee to be ever, with me, to direct, ſanctify, and govern me in the ways of thy laws, and in the ways of thy commandments; that through thy mighty protection, both now and ever, I may be preſerved both in body and ſoul, to ſerve thee, the only true God, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

*After which preſently ariſe and ſay,*

IN the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt. Amen. Bleſſed be God, the Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen. I ariſe from my bed to glorify him. He of his infinite mercy bleſs and keep me this day and for ever more. Amen. I laid me down and ſlept, and roſe again, for the Lord ſuſtained me.

*As you are dreſſing yourſelf ſay,*

I Will put on the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and make no proviſion for the fleſh, to fulfil the luſts

thereof. Cloath me, O Lord, with the ornaments of thy heavenly grace, and cover me with the robes of righteousness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*At the Washing of your Hands say,*

O Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sins; make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; a spirit cleaving unto thee, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

[*After which betake yourself to your morning prayers with singular devotion; and after them walk awhile in your chamber, and bethink yourself of the following day, and of a prudent and conscientious transaction of the affairs thereof. In the management of which, consider what temptations may probably assault you, and arm yourself against them, though your occasions may sometimes render you incapable of doing this duty; but in all your doings with mankind, be sure you observe the golden rule*— Do as you would be done by.]

*When you go out of your House or Chamber say,*

THE Lord preserve my going out and my coming in, from this time forth, for evermore. Amen.

*When you behold the pleasant Fields, and Variety of Objects, say,*

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. Amen. *When*

*When you see or hear any Thing extraordinary, ſay,*

BLESSED be the Lord God, even the Lord God of Iſrael, who alone doeth wondrous things; and all the earth ſhall be filled with his name. Amen.

*When you hear the Clock ſtrike ſay,*

OUR days upon earth are but as a ſhadow, and we bring our years to an end as a tale that is told; ſo teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wiſdom.—Amen.

*When you read the Scriptures ſay,*

OPEN mine eyes, O Lord, that I may ſee the wondrous things of thy law. Amen.

*When you are ſad or diſcontented ſay,*

WHY art thou ſo full of heavineſs, O my ſoul? and why art thou ſo diſquieted within me? Put thy truſt in the Lord thy God, for I yet will give thanks for the help of his countenance.

*When you hunger and thirſt ſay,*

BLESSED are they that hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs, for they ſhall be filled.

*When you hear others evil ſpoken of ſay,*

LORD, who ſhall dwell in thy tabernacle, or who ſhall reſt upon thy holy hill? He

that hath uſed no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil unto his neighbour, and hath not ſlandered his neighbour.

*Upon the Senſe of your Sins and miſ-ſpending your Time ſay,*

CALL to thy remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies, and thy loving kindneſs, which have been of old. O remember not the ſins and offences of my youth, nor of my riper years. O deal not with me after my ſins, neither reward me after my iniquities; but according to thy mercy look upon me, Lord, for thy goodneſs. Amen.

[*Neglect not, when occaſion offers, to perform all ſpiritual works of mercy, viz. To inſtruct the ignorant, to correct offenders, to conſel the doubtful, to ſuffer injuries with patience, to forgive offences and wrongs, and to pray for others. Alſo, all corporeal works of mercy, viz. To feed the hungry, and give drink to the thirſty, to cloath the naked, to harbour the ſtranger and needy, to viſit the ſick, to adminiſter unto priſoners and captives, to bury the dead, and to do ſuch other charitable deeds as your abilities will allow you to perform.*]

*When the day is almoſt expended, think on the duties you have omitted, and the crimes you have committed; then devoutly aſk pardon of the Almighty for the manifold ſins of the paſt day, in a moſt humble evening prayer, a form of which, for every day in the week, is contained in this book, which deſerves to be called, A Cabinet of Jewels; being a thouſand times richer, in the true value, than the gaudieſt, although ſold for ſo trifling a ſum.*

As

*As you undreſs yourſelf ſay,*

THAT the time is coming wherein you ſhall put off this body of fleſh, as you do now the garments which cover its nakedneſs—And that you may do this in peace, and to your future happineſs, your ſoul muſt now be ſtripped of the former converſation of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful luſts, and put on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteouſneſs and true holineſs.

*As you enter the Bed ſay,*

IN the name of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who was crucified upon the croſs, and laid in the grave for me, I lay me down to reſt. He bleſs me, and keep me, he ſave me, and raiſe me up again, and bring me at laſt unto eternal life. Amen.

*As you partake yourſelf to Sleep ſay,*

I Will lay me down in peace, and take my reſt; for it is thou, O Lord, makeſt me to dwell in ſafety. Amen.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord, now and in the hour of death. Amen.

Preſerve me while I am waking, defend me while I am ſleeping, that my ſoul may continually watch for thee, and both body and ſoul may reſt in thy peace for ever and ever. Amen.

*Should you in the Night-Time lay awake ſay,*

O Lord, thou haſt proved and viſited my heart, in the night ſeaſon thou haſt viſited me. O

bleſſed

bleſſed Father, purge me, that thou mayeſt find no wickedneſs in me, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Lord, give me grace to make haſte, and not prolong the time, to keep thy commandments, that I may call thy ways to remembrance, and turn my feet to my teſtimonies, and then at midnight I will give thee thanks becauſe of thy righteous judgments, O Lord, my ſtrength and my redeemer. Amen.

*In Caſe you are not preſently diſpoſed to ſleep, devoutly repeat the 51ſt Pſalm, which, for that Purpoſe, you muſt be careful to get by Heart.*

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, &c.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

---

## A COLLECTION OF

# Short but excellent *PRAYERS*

## For every Day in the Week.

---

### *A Prayer for the Sabbath Day in the Morning.*

Let my ſupplication come before thee. Deliver me according to thy word, Pſ. cxix. 170.

O Lord God, Almighty and ever living Father, Lord of the Sabbath, and fountain of all wiſdom, I preſent theſe my ſupplications before

beheld

before thee, not mine own righteousness, but in thy great mercies, in which alone I trust, and put my whole confidence. O Lord, I beseech thee most mercifully to look upon me, who is, by reason of sin, a most vile and wicked creature: it is thou, Lord, and thou alone, can make me clean; therefore I cast myself wholly upon thee, and thy son Jesus Christ. O Lord, I have great cause to praise and extol thy glorious name, for preserving me this night: thou hast kept me from the sleep of death; blessed be thy name for it; thou hast made me rest quietly under the shadow of thy wings; and now, Lord, I beseech thee to protect me this day with thy mighty hand from all dangers, both of soul and body: mortify and kill in me all carnal lusts, unlawful pleasures, and evil actions, that they may have no dominion over me. But, O Lord, give me a contrite heart to bewail the sins of my youth, and let me find comfort in thy mercies for pardoning my sins; and sanctify this thy holy day. Make me, O Lord, to honour thee as a Creator, love thee as a Redeemer, and hope and trust in thee as my only Saviour. O Lord, let me not speak my own words, nor think my own thoughts, in this thy day, but let me spend the few hours which thou hast taken to thyself to thy glory, that in the end my poor soul may reap the comfort of it. Lord, send thy holy spirit upon me, to bear witness that I am thy child, and shall be heir of thy kingdom with Jesus Christ; for whose sake, and in whose name, I beseech thee, grant me all these things I have here prayed for. Amen.

*An Evening Prayer for the Sabbath.*

O Eternal, everliving, and ever-loving Lord God, from the bottom of my heart I have cause to give thee continual thanks for the mercies of this day: thou hast preserved me by thy power, and hast dealt bountifully with my soul, in that thou hast been pleased to refresh it with the most wholesome force of thy heavenly word, O Lord, with the dew of grace water the word which I have heard and received, that I may grow thereby. O God, forgive the evil which I have committed this day: I have done those things which I ought not to have done. Lord, give me an heart to repent of every sin which I have committed against thee this day. O Lord, stretch out thine hand over me, and preserve me this night from all evil; preserve my body from death, and my soul from damnation; compass me on every side with thy grace; guide me in every thing that I shall undertake; let me undertake nothing to the dishonour of thy holy name; but in all things let me demean myself here, that when I come to die I may be assured to entertain a being in thy kingdom. O Lord, grant all these mercies to me, and whatsoever else thou seest needful for me, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*A Prayer for Monday Morning.*

HOLY Lord God, I thy poor unworthy creature do here prostrate myself before thee this morning, humbly intreating thee to look

with

with thy tender compaſſion on me. Pardon my ſins, O Lord, and forgive mine iniquities.—Blot out my tranſgreſſions, and let them not come into remembrance with thee any more. Lord, as I have great cauſe to bewail my ſins and wickedneſs, ſo have I great cauſe to admire and adore thee for all thy loving kindneſs unto me, more eſpecially for preſerving me this night paſt. O Lord, thou haſt given me a quiet night's reſt, bleſſed be thy name for it. Thou haſt raiſed my body from the ſleep of death, and my ſoul from the ſleep of ſin; and now in the beginning of this week let me go about my avocations thou haſt ſet me in with chearfulneſs; and let me undertake nothing ſinful, but in all thing have an eye to thee; then I am certain every thing which I take in hand will proſper. O Lord, thou well knoweſt what is needful for me; I beg thee to ſupply my wants in that fountain of mercy, thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, in whom my ſoul ſhall bleſs and magnify thy holy name from this time forth for ever more. Amen.

## *An Evening Prayer for Monday.*

ALMIGHTY God of heaven and earth, thou who inhabiteſt eternity, whoſe dwelling is in the higheſt heavens, yet thou doſt condeſcend to look down with a tender eye of pity and compaſſion upon our poor ſinful duſt and aſhes. O God, thou didſt give infinite occaſions to poor ſinners, day by day, to renew the praiſes due to thy name. O that I had an heart and tongue to

ſet forth the riches of thy mercies, which thou doſt daily beſtow on me, to be more eager and diligent in purſuing thoſe riches that are good. O that I could ſo lead my life here that I might be aſſured of heaven hereafter.

Bleſſed be thy name, O God, for this day's mercies; Lord keep and preſerve me this night. When I go to lie down to ſleep let me be ſo prepared, that if it were the laſt night I ſhould ſleep in this body, yet I might have aſſurance in thee. O God, keep me from all evil thoughts in the longeſt night, and from fearful dreams, which diſturb poor carnal fleſh. When I awake let me with David meditate on thy holy word, that no harm can come unto me. Finally, I beſeech thee, O God, to guard and defend me this night, that in the morning when I ariſe, I may render up my tribute of praiſe and thankſgiving unto thy holy name for all the unſpeakable mercies which thou day and night beſtoweſt upon me. O Lord, hear me, and in thy due time anſwer me. And all this I beg upon account of thy dear Son and my Saviour. Amen.

*A Prayer for Tueſday Morning.*

HOLY Lord God, great is thy name, and above all others to be praiſed; but for poor ſinful duſt and aſhes to dare venture to come before ſo great a God is high preſumption; yet, Lord, I thy poor creature, in and through the merits of Jeſus Chriſt my Saviour, do with

all

all boldneſs caſt myſelf at the throne of grace, and moſt heartily beg for the aſſurance of thy holy ſpirit. O God, I give thee humble and hearty thanks for the preſervation of the night paſt. O God, though I do not deſerve theſe favours from thee, yet for thy ſon's ſake, if it be thy bleſſed will, continue them to me. I beſeech thee, O God, as thou haſt hitherto, continue faithful to me to the end of my days; that when I depart this life, I may be an heir of the kingdom of heaven. This I beg in the name of thy Son, my Saviour, Jeſus Chriſt the righteous, to whom be aſcribed, as is moſt due, all honour, glory, and praiſe, both now and for evermore. Amen.

*An Evening Prayer for Tueſday.*

MOST great, moſt glorious, and incomprehenſible Lord God, I thy poor and unworthy creature, am now about to offer up theſe my unworthy prayers unto thy divine Majeſty, humbly beſeeching thee to pardon the ſins which I have committed againſt thy divine Majeſty this day. Many and great have the ſins of my youth been, and in number even as the ſands on the ſea ſhore, yet O God, thy mercies ſurpaſs my ſins. O Lord give me a heart to repent of my former wicked life, and all the evils I have committed againſt thee, moſt holy. As I have great cauſe to bewail my ſins, ſo I have far greater cauſe to bleſs thy name for the unſpeakable mercies which thou haſt beſtowed upon me, more

eſpecially for all the mercies of this day. Thou haſt preſerved me in life and health, bleſſed be thy name for it. If it be thy bleſſed will watch over me this night; let thy angels guard me, and thy bleſſed hand protect me; and, when I awake from ſleep, let my meditations be of thy goodneſs. All this I beg, beſeeching thee to be a ſtrong tower of defence unto me, for Jeſus Chriſt his ſake, thy Son, my Saviour, and Redeemer, from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

*A Morning Prayer for Wedneſday.*

BLESSED and praiſed be thy name, O Lord, God, for all the unſpeakable mercies which thou, day by day and night, doſt freely beſtow on poor ſinners. O God, what am I, that thou ſhouldeſt caſt ſo much as one glimpſe of favour on me? I am a poor worm, a frail creature, duſt and aſhes, nay more, a grievous ſinner; yet, Lord, thou haſt compaſſion on me; thou haſt mercifully preſerved me this night—I bleſs thy name for it. Lord, keep me ſtill; thou alone be my guide and an overſeer over me to overlook me, ſo as to keep me from all deadly ſin. Let my heart, O Lord, be found right in thee, and let me not undertake any evil. Set a watch before my lips that my tongue may utter no unclean thing. Guide and direct me in all things, that what I do I may do unto the glory of thy name, and the good of my own ſoul. And all this

this I beg in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

*An Evening Prayer for Wednesday.*

O Lord, Father of Heaven and earth, give in fresh supplies of thy spirit to thy poor creature, that I may continually praise thy name for all thy loving kindness thou dost every day bestow on me. Thou art a God of comfort and consolation; thou hast been my guide all the day long, now I beseech thee to be my guardian all the night; make me to rest quietly; and when drowsy sleep vanisheth away, set my heart to work to meditate on thy mercies, which in an abundant manner thou dost bestow on me. O Lord, awake my soul, and let Christ enliven me with thy mercies: teach me to do that which is right; make me hate that which is evil; and plant me by the water side, that I may bring forth fruit to thy glory, and the comfort of my wicked and sinful soul. This I beg for Christ's sake. Amen.

*A Prayer for Thursday Morning.*

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, I give thee my most humble and hearty thanks in that thou hast been graciously pleased to give quiet rest to my poor sinful body. Lord, if it be thy blessed will, give spiritual rest to my soul. Lord, as thou hast commanded that we always do good, I humbly beseech thee that thine eyes ever,

ever attend upon me, and make me bestow this day, and the residue of my life, according to thy blessed will, setting thee always before mine eyes, always living in thy fear, and working that which is acceptable in thy sight. This I beseech thee to grant for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

*A Prayer for Thursday Night.*

MOST merciful God and ever living Father, who dost bestow so many blessings on me, give me an understanding heart, and let my lips shew forth thy praise. Thou hast kept me from all dangers, both of soul and body; thou hast given me food, raiment, and health. I beseech thee, good Lord, to keep me this night and ever more; and when my body sleepeth in death my soul may rest eternally in thy glory and my comfort. All which I beg at thy hand for the mercies of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

*A Prayer for Friday Morning.*

O Most merciful Father, as thou hast, of thy great mercy, vouchsafed me a quiet passage of this night, grant, I beseech thee, that I may bestow this day in thy service. Lord strengthen me against the temptations of Satan; keep me from all ill, and deliver me from all danger; forgive all my sins, and blot out my transgressions. Grant, O Lord, these my weak petitions for the sake of thy son Jesus Christ, who hath taught us, when we pray, to say, Our Father, &c.

*A Prayer*

*A Prayer for Friday Evening.*

O Eternal God and merciful Father, who hath this day, and at all times of my life, graciouſly defended and preſerved me, I praiſe thee for my redemption by thy ſon and my Saviour. O Lord, let thy mighty hand and out-ſtretched arm be my grand defence; thy mercy and loving kindneſs to Chriſt Jeſus my ſalvation; thy true and holy word my inſtructions; thy grace and holy ſpirit my comfort unto the end, thro' Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

*A Prayer for Saturday Morning.*

O Immortal God, accept my morning ſacrifice of praiſe and thankſgiving. I humbly intreat thee to cut off the root of the evil tree from my corrupt heart; and give me a ſure hope of everlaſting life. O Lord, I beſeech thee, ſend a bleſſing upon my labours, and prepare my heart in all my buſineſs, that I may do it to the honour of thy name, and finiſh it with thy bleſſing, that whatſoever I ſhall do may proſper. Grant this, O Lord, for the ſake of our bleſſed Saviour and Redeemer, Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

*A Prayer for Saturday Night.*

GLORY be given unto thee, O Lord, for all thy bleſſings beſtowed on me this week; and now the day is almoſt ſpent I beſeech thee to take me into thy cuſtody this night, that I may ſleep and awake in peace. Prepare me,

Lord,

Lord, for the holy Sabbath, and unlock the myſteries of thy holy word unto me. O Lord, grant theſe my deſires for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, my advocate and redeemer. Amen.

*A Prayer to be ſaid on entering into a Church.*

LORD, I am now in thy houſe, aſſiſt me and accept of my ſervice; enable me to worſhip thee in ſpirit. Let thy holy word diſpoſe my heart to ſeriouſneſs, attention, and devotion; and grant that I may improve this opportunity to the honour of thy holy name, through Jeſus Chriſt.

*A Prayer after Sermon is ended.*

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord, for this opportunity of attending thee in thy houſe; grant that I may be the doer of thy will; pardon my wandering and imperfections, through our only mediator and redeemer, Jeſus Chriſt.

*To each Prayer always add this Concluſion.*

GOD the favour bleſs me, God the Son defend me, God the Holy Ghoſt preſerve me, God the bleſſed Trinity be with me now and evermore. Amen.

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM SP 88